

**AFEHRI File 19-10**

**Research Materials/Source Documents  
ENLISTED FIRSTS**

**FILE TITLE: CMSAF Paul W. Airey - 1st Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force**

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**Director**  
**Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute**



7-17-6-70  
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# Biography

# United States Air Force

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HQ UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, WASHINGTON DC 20330-2000  
(202) 697-0844  
AUTOVON 227-0844

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE (Retired) PAUL W. AIREY

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (Retired) Paul W. Airey is the Military Marketing Specialist for Metropolitan Life based in New York City NY.

He was the first chief master sergeant to be appointed to the ultimate noncommissioned officer position of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. As such he advised the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force on matters concerning the welfare, effective utilization and progress of the enlisted members of the Air Force. He held this position from April 3, 1967 until July 31, 1969.

Born in New Bedford, MA, on December 13, 1923, he attained a high school diploma and more than two years of college through the Air Force's off duty education program.

Chief Airey enlisted in the Air Force in November 1942 and served continuously until his retirement, August 1, 1970.

Following basic training at Atlantic City NJ from November 1942 to January 1943, Chief Airey was assigned to Scott Field IL where he completed Radio Operator School in June 1943.

Chief Airey was then assigned to Aerial Gunnery School at Tyndall Field FL. Graduating in August 1943, he was reassigned to Fairmont Army Air Base, Fairmont NE, where he completed B-24 Liberator bomber phase training.

He was assigned to North Africa in March 1944, and in May 1944 was reassigned to the 485th Bomb Group, Fifteenth Air Force, in Italy. Based near Foggia, he flew as radio operator-aerial gunner on combat missions over the Ploesti oil fields, Germany and Austria.

Chief Airey was flying on his 28th combat mission in July 1944 over Vienna, Austria, when his B-24 was shot down by anti-aircraft fire. Parachuting safely, he was immediately made a prisoner of war.

He was first incarcerated in Stalagluft 4, near the Baltic Sea. Some months later, Chief Airey and his fellow prisoners were force-marched hundreds of miles to Stalag 257, near Berlin.



When he was released in May 1945, Chief Airey weighed just over a 100 pounds, 50 pounds under his normal weight. Chief Airey was immediately returned to the United States and placed on a three-month recuperation leave.

In August 1945, the Chief was assigned to Scott Field IL, as an instructor in the radio school there. He remained at Scott until 1951 when he was reassigned to Naha AB, Okinawa.

As Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge (NCOIC) of Naha's wing communications he devised a corrosion control assembly line for aircraft radio and radar equipment. Chief Airey then trained personnel in the proper use and maintenance of this equipment, and placed it in full operation on a production line basis. His unique idea and resourcefulness resulted in tremendous monetary savings by prolonging the life of communications equipment at negligible expense. Chief Airey was awarded the Legion of Merit for this idea.

Chief Airey returned to the United States in October 1953 and was again assigned to Scott Air Force Base IL but this time as a First Sergeant. He remained at the midwest base until January 1959 when he was reassigned to the 3407th School Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base MS, as First Sergeant of the unit. In October 1959 he started his third oversea tour as a First Sergeant, this time of the 611th Aircraft Control and Warning Site, a remote base in Japan.

Returning to the United States he was assigned to the 478th Fighter Group at Grand Forks ND, in August 1960. He first served as NCOIC of the Airmen Section, Directorate of Personnel, later as Personnel Sergeant Major. His next assignment was as First Sergeant of the 468th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron, and finally as First Sergeant of the 18th Fighter Interceptor Squadron.

Remaining at Grand Forks until November 1964, he was assigned to his last First Sergeant position at the 4756th Civil Engineering Squadron, Tyndall Air Force Base FL.

Chief Airey's decorations include the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

After retiring from the Air Force, Chief Airey became the Regional Director of the Air Force Sergeants Association. He held this position for ten years.

The Chief and Mrs Airey, the former Shirley E. Babbitt of Quincy MA, have three children: Ellen E., married and living in Casper WY; CMSgt Dale Paul Airey, USAF; and Shawn J. Airey who resides in Parker FL. The Airey's have two grandchildren by their son Dale: Paul Wesley Airey II, and Sean J. Airey.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



21 February 1967

Chief Master Sergeant Paul W. Airey  
4756th Civil Engineering Squadron  
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

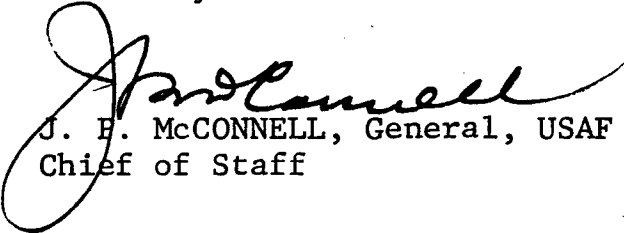
Dear Sergeant Airey

It is with great personal pride and satisfaction that I inform you of your selection as the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

You can be justifiably proud of your achievement. Your many years of devotion to duty and outstanding performance have culminated in your reaching the pinnacle of the enlisted ranks of the United States Air Force. You join the selectees of the other services in attaining the highest level of enlisted status in the military departments.

I extend my personal congratulations and, on behalf of everyone in the Air Force, best wishes for a challenging and rewarding assignment as the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

Sincerely

  
J. E. McCONNELL, General, USAF  
Chief of Staff



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20301

PLEASE NOTE DATE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 1967

OXford 7-5131 (Info.)  
OXford 7-3189 (Copies)  
NO. 274-67

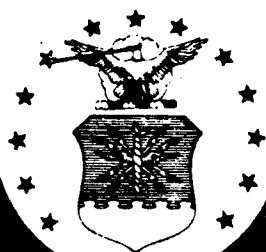
## CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE ASSUMES OFFICE

Chief Master Sergeant Paul W. Airey was installed at 12:30 p.m. today as the Chief Master Sergeant of the United States Air Force at a Pentagon ceremony. Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. McConnell selected Airey from among 2,200 senior noncommissioned officers to be the first to occupy the recently created position. Sergeant Airey will now serve on General McConnell's personal staff in Washington.

Sergeant Airey is a veteran of more than 24 years military service. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army and Air Force Commendation Medals. A first sergeant when he was picked as the Air Defense Command nominee, Airey is a former B-24 aerial gunner credited with 28 combat missions in Europe during World War II. He was a Prisoner of War in Germany from July 1944 to May 1945, following his capture after bailing out of a flak-damaged plane.

The new Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He is married and the father of two sons and one daughter. The Airey family will remain in their Florida residence until the school year ends in June, after which they will join Sergeant Airey here. They will then live at 113 Garrison Street, Bolling AFB, D.C.

END



## INFORMATION SHEET

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

SAF-OIPC

Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Oxford 7-9835

NEW CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE PICKED FROM "CREAM" OF NCO CORPS

Chief Master Sergeant Paul W. Airey, installed today as the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, competed with 20 other Chiefs, the "Cream" of Air Force's noncommissioned officer corps. The 21 nominees, all married men, represented more than 500 years of active military service. Each was nominated by his respective major air command for the highest enlisted position, and together they represented 9 overseas bases and 12 stateside installations.

Sergeant Airey and two others were selected as finalists by a board at Randolph AFB, Texas, in January. General John P. McConnell, Air Force Chief of Staff, made the final selection on February 21, and today led the Pentagon ceremonies which formally began the sergeant's two-year term. The event was witnessed by Sergeant's Airey's family and by the Honorable Harold Brown, Secretary of the Air Force.

The other two finalists were Chief Master Sergeants Conrad F. Stevens, MAC, and Jefferson F. Marsh, PACAF.

The 18 remaining nominees were Chief Master Sergeants James R. Brooks, USAFSSO, Howard AFB, Canal Zone; James N. Brown, MAC, McGuire AFB, N.J.; Malcolm D. Calhoun, AF Accounting and Finance Center, Colo.; Charles H. Fisher, SAC, Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico; Leonard C. Fyler, AFSC, Patrick AFB, Fla.; Woodrow W. Hanson, SAC, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.; Dwight F. Herrington, TAC, Forbes AFB, Kans.; Bill D. Hopson, AFCS, Clark AB, P.I.; John B. Johnson, AFLC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; and Donald J. King, USAFE, RAF, Bentwater, England.

MORE



## INFORMATION SHEET

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

SAF-OIPC

Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

OXford 7-9835

### STATEMENT BY CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT PAUL W. AIREY, FIRST CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

This is the proudest day of my career. There is special significance to my appointment at this particular time, for this year we mark the twentieth anniversary of the Air Force as a separate Department. Our anniversary theme is "Air Force 20 -- Aerospace People, Progress, Power." I am making this my personal theme as I take up these new duties today.

In my twenty-four years of service I have seen many changes as we progressed from simple Airpower to today's Aerospace Power. The enlisted corps has kept pace with that progress. I believe we will continue to progress, for it is pride and dedication that keep enlisted men at their posts, not the lure of an easy life and a secure future. For the dedicated airman, it is not only money or the job to be done. It is the desire to serve our country that motivates today's Air Force man.

I pledge myself to work for ever better utilization of the more than three quarters of a million Air Force enlisted members. I am particularly interested in the areas of retention, career development, educational progression, and civic responsibilities. I plan to get out and talk to airmen all over the world. In this way I hope to develop recommendations to present to the Chief of staff on how we can continue to improve the working situations in which personal pride and service can best be combined to accomplish our mission.

I welcome this opportunity to work toward making our Aerospace People an increasingly valuable asset to the Air Force and to the Nation.

GUEST LIST

INSTALLATION CEREMONY

FOR

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT PAUL W. AIREY

1215 HOURS, MONDAY, 3 APRIL 1967

SECRETARY BROWN'S CONFERENCE ROOM, RM 4E-871

HOST: General John P. McConnell

GUEST OF HONOR: Chief Master Sergeant Paul W. Airey

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mrs. Paul W. Airey (Wife)

Ellen Airey (Daughter - Age 19)

Dale Airey (Son - Age 17)

Shawn Airey (Son - Age 9)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Airey, Jr.  
(Brother and Sister-in-Law)

Mr. Rolland Airey (Brother)

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Clow  
(Brother-in-Law and Sister)

Maj General Thomas R. Ford

Maj General Walter B. Putman

Brig General William S. Harrell

Colonel James Fogle

Colonel Thomas D. DeJarnette

CMSgt and Mrs. Paul Barton

CMSgt Jack Hoff

CMSgt Charles Cogan



FAMILY & FRIENDS:  
(Contd)

CMSgt Donald L. Harlow

TSgt Gloria J. Hinzman

TSgt Charles E. Beck

OFFICIAL GUESTS:

Honorable Harold Brown

Honorable Norman S. Paul

Lt General Thomas P. Gerrity

Lt General Hewitt T. Wheless

Lt General Joseph R. Holzapple

Lt General Horace M. Wade

Lt General Glen W. Martin

Mr. John A. Lang, Jr.

Maj General Eugene B. LeBailly

Maj General Richard S. Abbey

Maj General Robert W. Manss

Maj General Lawrence S. Lightner

Mr. J. P. Goode

Colonel Brian S. Gunderson

Colonel Charles I. Bennett, Jr.

Colonel John W. Mitchell

Colonel Frank W. Elliott, Jr.

Lt Colonel G. H. Ropp, Jr.

OFFICIAL GUESTS:  
(Contd)

Major Harry C. Russell, Sr.

Captain Richard I. Taylor

Mr. David Stone

(Member, Society of Illustrators)

GMCM Delbert D. Black

(Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Navy)

Sgt Major Herbert J. Sweet

(Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps)

SM Sgt Samuel L. McLendon

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Paul W. Airey

First Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

April 3, 1967–July 31, 1969

**He was the first—and he was determined that the office would not be a front for the Pentagon or a lobby for malcontents.**

## A Spokesman, Not a Captive

“Bone weary from catching catnaps in bucket seats, living out of a flight bag, and playing one-nighters from Vietnam to USAFE.”

That was how *Air Force Times* described Paul Airey after one year as the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. Although Airey showed the strain, the newspaper noted, he had lost none of the enthusiasm for the job and remained an “unblushing spokesman [for the Air Force leadership], but not its captive.”

The road to the top enlisted post began for Chief Airey in 1942 in Quincy, Mass. He had planned to join the Navy, but an encounter with an abrasive chief petty officer sent him down the street, where he enlisted in the Army Air Forces. Although he wanted to become an aerial gunner, he was trained as a B-24 radio operator with additional duty as waist gunner.

After training in Florida, New Jersey, and Illinois, he was assigned to a B-24 crew that ferried a bomber from Nebraska through the Caribbean and South America to North Africa. When his unit moved to Italy to fly missions against targets in Hungary, Germany, and Austria, Chief Airey remembers flak so thick “it darkened the sky, almost blocked out the sun.” In 1944, Fifteenth Air Force flew “max effort” sorties with hundreds of aircraft, suffering losses of several airplanes per mission. Chief Airey remembers thinking: “The odds are pretty good. But you multiply that by the number of missions you have to fly, and the odds start going down.”

## Guest of the Luftwaffe

His luck ran out on his twenty-eighth mission when, at the age of twenty, the flak caught up with him during a raid against an oil refinery near Vienna. When the pilot said, "Get out," there was no hesitation on Airey's part: he had seen too many bombers spin out of formations, the centripetal force trapping aircrews. During the slow, silent descent to earth by parachute, he remembers ripping up his Morse encryption code and, undaunted, smoking a cigarette.

A guest of the Luftwaffe for the next year, he survived a ninety-day forced march from the Baltic Sea to Berlin before being liberated by the British Army in 1945; he had lost a third of his 150-pound weight while a POW. Returned to the States within one month for a three-month recuperation leave, he reenlisted—a move he had considered while a prisoner.

The next six years were spent at Scott Field, Ill., where he was a radio school instructor before being assigned as NCOIC of communications at Naha AB, Okinawa. There, he observed the tremendous toll the salt air and fungi exacted on the electronic equipment that had not been prepared for tropical use, and introduced procedures to protect the gear—procedures that won him a Legion of Merit.

Chief Airey returned to Scott Field in 1953 to an assignment as first sergeant, a career field in which he was to spend more than half his career. Of his many Air Force jobs, Chief Airey feels, "I think first sergeant was best. I liked the discipline. I liked being able to lead."

**Paul Airey in Belgium in May 1945, one week after his liberation from a German prison camp by the British Second Army. During his year as a POW he survived a ninety-day forced march from the Baltic Sea to Berlin. Several months after his release, Airey reenlisted.**



He was selected by Gen. John P. McConnell, the Chief of Staff, to be the first CMSAF. (Other finalists were CMSgt. Jefferson F. Marsh of PACAF and CMSgt. Conrad F. Stevens of MAC.) "I will never be convinced that I was the most qualified or the best," Chief Airey says. "I ended up with the job, so you go out and do the best you can."

During his installation ceremony, Chief Airey noted the special significance of his appointment in the year

1967—the twentieth anniversary of the Air Force as a separate service. Over that twenty-year period, he said, "I have seen many changes as we progressed from simple airpower to today's aerospace power. The enlisted corps has kept pace with that progress. I believe we will continue to progress, for it is pride and dedication that keep enlisted men at their posts, not the lure of an easy life and a secure future. It is the desire to serve our country that motivates today's Air Force."

## Advice to Go Slow

The new post found less than unanimous support among some of the Air Force's senior leadership, however. At his induction, one general advised Chief Airey to "go slowly" to avoid antagonizing the Air Staff.

His perception is that the job of the CMSAF was "ninety percent common sense and ten percent knowledge." He felt, at the time, that establishment of the office "could be the best thing to happen to airmen or the worst if the office becomes a front for the Pentagon or a lobby for malcontents."

In 1967, the Air Force suffered the worst retention rates in more than a decade. Chief Airey attributed that not to the unpopularity of the war in Vietnam, but to poor pay, numerous remote assignments, good civilian employment opportunities, and an inequitable promotion system. Especially the promotion system. Rep. L. Mendel Rivers (D-S. C.), then powerful Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, was receiving thousands of letters a year from airmen. Following hearings in which the Air Force was severely criticized, Chief Airey participated in the establishment of the Weighted Airman Promotion System. Letters to Congress dwindled to a mere handful following introduction of WAPS, a system Chief Airey considers "by far the fairest, best, most equitable system of any of the Armed Forces."

## Airey's Views

Chief Airey's thoughts on other matters of concern to him and his successors follow:

**Testifying before Congress:** "I always received a good briefing to make sure I knew what I was talking about. I can honestly say no one tried to put words in my mouth."

**TOPCAP:** Although the program achieved its objectives, it "has outlived its usefulness. I am glad to see they are modifying it [to] let commanders give waivers."

**NCO Commissioning:** He believes the Air Force should commission "as captains, even majors," some fifteen to twenty-five seniors and chiefs every year.

**"Senior Enlisted Advisor":** He always disapproved of the term and tried to have it changed to a "good strong military title," such as "Chief Master Sergeant of MAC" or "Chief Master Sergeant of the 1st TFW."

**Selection of CMSAF and Senior Advisors:** "We must pick the best chiefs for these jobs . . . someone the young airmen look up to and respect, ones who project the proper image . . . the type young airmen will approach with their problems."

**Senior NCO Academy:** He believes attendance should be a prerequisite for promotion to chief. Of senior NCOs who retire to avoid attending: "Good. Get rid of them. We don't need them."

*All-Volunteer Force:* "A failure. The defense of a democracy should be [the responsibility] of a composite of the people that make up that democracy." He believes in a return to the draft.

### **Traveling and Talking**

During his tenure, Chief Airey represented an enlisted force of three quarters of a million people to the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force. He traveled more than 500,000 miles (including four trips to Southeast Asia), spoke before audiences totaling 100,000, and received some 4,000 letters.

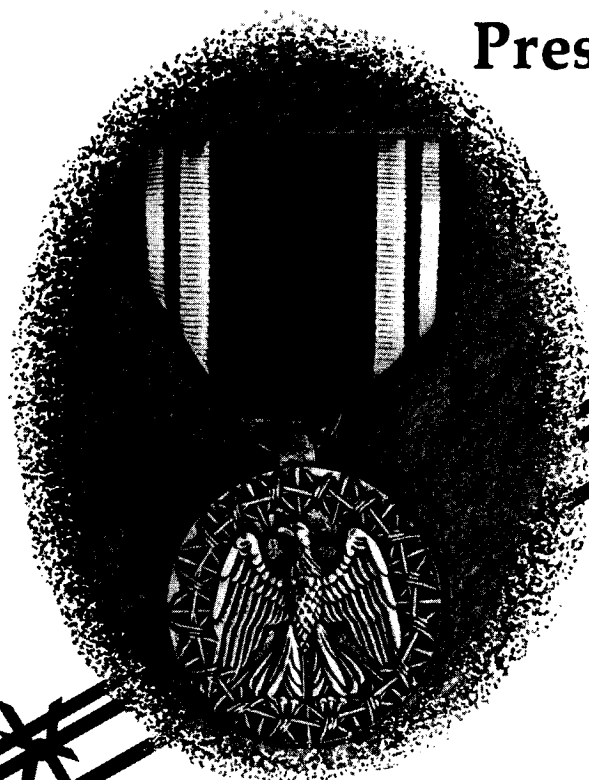
Upon completion of his term, Chief Airey returned to Tyndall AFB, Fla. He remained on active duty because of a desire to complete thirty years of service. He is the only CMSAF to have taken a follow-on assignment and, in retrospect, feels that in most cases retirement is the most logical step for a departing CMSAF.

He and his wife, Shirley, live in Panama City, Fla. Chief Airey works for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.



**Chief Airey aboard an AC-47 gunship in Vietnam in 1967. During his tenure as Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Chief Airey traveled more than 500,000 miles (including four trips to Southeast Asia) and spoke before audiences totaling 100,000.**

**Prisoner of War Medal  
Presentation  
to**



**CMSAF PAUL W. AIREY, Retired**

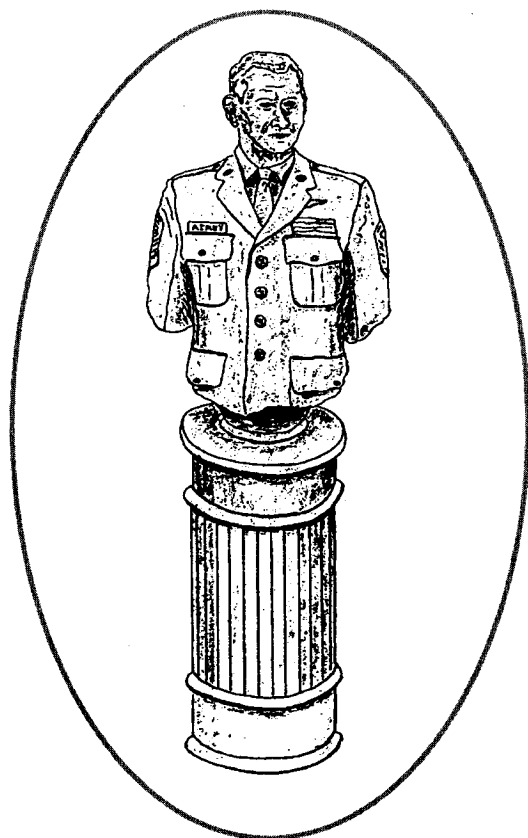
USAF SNCO Academy  
Gunter AFB, Alabama

On 8 July 1944, the B-24 "Liberator" in which Technical Sergeant Paul W. Airey was serving as the radio operator was severely damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire while bombing the oil refineries at Florisdorf, Austria (near Vienna). The severely damaged aircraft gradually lost altitude until arriving near Papa, Hungary. There the entire crew bailed out and their parachutes were seen to open. The disabled "Liberator" crashed and burned in an open field. Technical Sergeant Airey was immediately taken prisoner of war and taken to the government prison in Budapest, Hungary where he remained until 28 July 1944. Later that month, Technical Sergeant Airey was taken by train to Stalag Luft IV at Pomperainen, Germany where he remained until 6 February 1945. Starting on 6 February 1945, he was force marched for approximately 90 days for a distance of 1,000 miles to within 100 miles of Berlin, Germany to Stalag 357. Technical Sergeant Airey remained at Stalag 357 until he was liberated by the British 2nd Army near Lueneberg, Germany on 2 May 1945.

## PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL PRESENTATION

20 JULY 1988

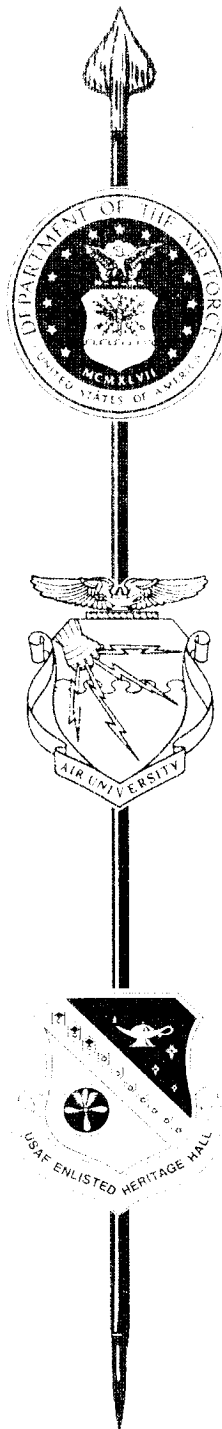
Air University Ceremonial Band	1050
Distinguished Guests Arrival	1100
Honors	Air University Ceremonial Band
National Anthem	Air University Ceremonial Band
Invocation	Chaplain, Colonel Hancock
Introduction of Distinguished Guests	CMSgt Guidas
<i>Comments by Gen Hauer</i>	<i>CMSgt Guidas</i>
History of Prisoner of War Medal	SMSgt Davis
The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Comments	CMSAF Binnicker
Presentation of Medal	CMSAF Binnicker



## About The Statue

Silicon bronze sculpture was handcrafted and created by Mr. John Lajba of Omaha, Nebraska to project Chief Airey's personality, strength, and genuine concern for the enlisted corps. It will be prominently displayed in the center of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force room at the United States Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall.

**This dedication made possible by:  
Government Employees Insurance Company**



## United States Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall

**Honors  
The First Chief Master Sergeant  
of the Air Force**



**Paul M. Airey**

**26 February 1992**





## CMSAF Paul M. Airey (Ret)

The First Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force  
3 April 1967 - 31 July 1969

The first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Paul W. Airey, began his association with the U.S. Air Force some 50 years ago when he enlisted in the Army Air Forces in 1942. The Quincy, Massachusetts native trained as a B-24 radio operator with additional duty as a waist gunner. After training, he was assigned to a B-24 crew that ferried a bomber to North Africa and eventually was assigned to Italy where his unit flew missions against targets in Hungary, Germany, and Austria. While flying his twenty-eighth mission with the 485th Bomb Group, Fifteenth Air Force, through flak so thick "it darkened the sky, almost blocked out the sun," his B-24 was shot down by anti-aircraft fire. He parachuted to safety but was immediately captured and imprisoned in Stalagluft 4 near the Baltic Sea. He survived a ninety-day forced march to Berlin and when liberated by the British Army in May 1945, he weighed just over 100 pounds. He became the first Air Force enlisted recipient of the new POW medal in 1988 for this experience.

While recovering in the States a month after his repatriation, he reenlisted and spent the next six years as a radio school instructor at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. In 1951 he was reassigned as NCOIC of communications at Naha Air Base, Okinawa where he developed and taught corrosion control procedures for electronic equipment that resulted in tremendous monetary savings for the Air Force and the subsequent award of his first Legion of Merit for his efforts.

Chief Airey returned to Scott Air Force Base in 1953 as a first sergeant, a career field that would span over half his career because he liked being a first sergeant the best. He liked the discipline and he liked "being able to lead." After a series of first sergeant assignments that took him all over the globe, he took his last first sergeant assignment at the 4756th Civil Engineering Squadron, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

In 1967, Chief Airey was picked from a list of 21 chief master sergeant nominees and took office as the first Chief Master Sergeant of

the Air Force on April 3, 1967. He adopted the twentieth anniversary theme of the Air Force as his own personal theme for the office, "Air Force 20—Aerospace People, Progress, Power."

Chief Airey said "I believe we (the enlisted corps) will continue to progress, for it is pride and dedication that keep enlisted men at their posts, not the lure of an easy life and a secure future. For the dedicated airman, it is not only money or the job to be done. It is the desire to serve our country that motivates today's Air Force man."

Chief Airey met with strong opposition from some of the Air Force's senior leadership who felt the new position of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force was not needed. Over his two years in office, however, he established the credibility of the position by a combination of "ninety percent common sense and ten percent knowledge." During his tenure he was instrumental in establishing the Weighted Airman Promotion System, a system that shines today as the "best, most equitable system of any of the Armed Forces."

After his retirement in 1970, Chief Airey began a long affiliation with Metropolitan Life Insurance. However, he has never forgotten his roots in the Air Force and continues to be a strong advocate for professional military education and the enlisted corps. His wise counsel and advice is sought by Air Force leaders of all ranks and the chief continues to set the standard for what it means to be a professional noncommissioned officer.

"Be obsessed with making the Air Force stronger and better each day of your life."

-Airey





Severe  
Post War  
change to  
Mr. James  
Reed

Paul M. Carey  
Chief Master  
Sgt of the  
USAF

